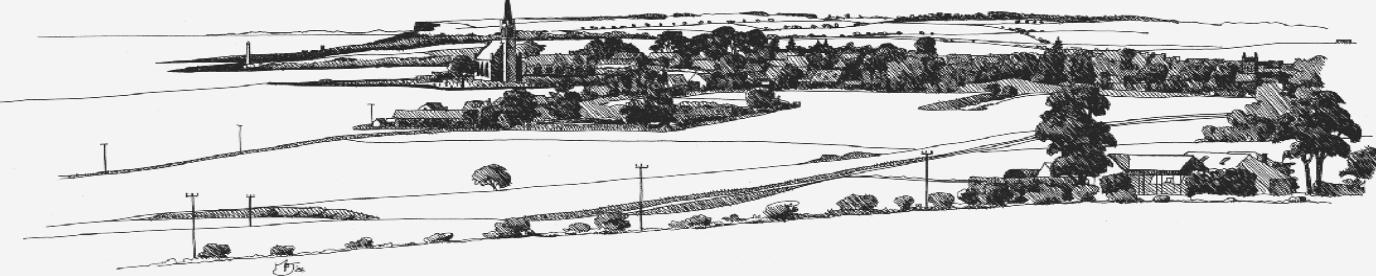


# The St Cyrus Newsletter



Volume 5 Issue 3 This is a free newsletter but donations are appreciated August/September 2007

## Flower Show

### Inside this issue:

Letter to the editor	2
Deadline to contribute	2
Churches	3
Youth Club	3
SNH Nature Reserve	4
Weatherman	4
KMAP & SATRA	5
Major Singleton	6
A Butterfly Summer	7
Calendar & website	8
Calendar & website	9
Home Fire Safety Visit	10
Blood Donors	10
The Public Hall	11
Ceilidh!!	11
The Provost	12
Computer Cor-	12
Village History	11
Violet Jacob	13
Van Leiper	13
Gala Day	14
Business Directory	14

Final preparations have been made and we are all set for Sunday 19 August in the village hall from 1.30pm. Prior to this will be the judging of the gardens with categories for flowers, vegetables, water feature, container and the Smart cup for the best garden overall. Previous winners of the Smart cup have been excluded this year in the hope that we will attract new entries. Kevin Whyte, gardener from Glenbervie is the judge and is very good at giving gardening tips. We have some lovely gardens in St Cyrus so please enter by contacting Sandy Davidson through the Gardens link.

Volunteers are always welcome. On Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm we need some helpers to put up the staging. This is also taken down straight after the show.

On show day we are short of people for our tea, raffle rota. If you can spare half an hour that afternoon please contact Kathleen Masson

Finally please consult your show schedule, available from Dorothy Tuck, price £1, which allows you admission into the show. Entries for the show can be brought along on Saturday, 5.00-7.30pm and on Sunday 8.00-9.30pm. If you need any show advice please contact me through the Flower Show link.

We hope to see you at the Flower Show and please put in as many entries as you can; hopefully the weather will have improved. There will be the usual plant stall, teas,



raffle, silent auction as well as the children's work from the school.

A good way to spend a Sunday afternoon

Isobel Smith



St Cyrus Newsletter Group is pleased to have received a grant to fund the next twelve months production of the newsletter. This funding was received from the Shell U.K. Limited Community Planning Small Grants Scheme with the support of Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership. If you would like to find out more about community planning in Aberdeenshire please visit [www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk](http://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk).

### Editorial Policy Statement

The St Cyrus Newsletter is a free community newsletter produced and distributed every two months by volunteers to households and businesses in St Cyrus and district. The aim of those involved is to produce an informative, accurate and entertaining journal for those who live, work and visit in this area. We are supporting an integrated and inclusive community with information, entertainment and discussion. Letters and articles published in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Production Committee and it they reserves the right to shorten, edit or not publish any item. Contributions will be attributed to the author. Vested interests will be declared where applicable. Articles should be between 200 and 300 words and the content should be original work relevant to St Cyrus and the environs. The St Cyrus Newsletter Group obtains written parental permission before including any photographs of children in the newsletter. When photographs of children are included they will not give the full name of individuals. The principal reason for this policy is because the newsletter is made available on the Internet as a downloadable PDF file. This policy is standard practice in all schools in Scotland. Photographic resources donated to and collected on behalf of The Newsletter Group remain the property of the group to illustrate the newsletter and may also be used to support village charitable fund raising. Entries for the Business directory are charged at £5 per issue for the single line entry of name, service and contact number.



### Production Committee

Maurice Forsyth-Grant: Chairman

Pam Harrison: Treasurer

Mike Burleigh: Editor

Lyn Hunt: Secretary

Mary Singleton

Bernard Tuck

Robert Flann

Elizabeth Leslie

Van Leiper

Tom Dalziel

Website Technician: Frances Johnson

### Distribution Team:

Bob Flann, Andrew Hamilton, Mike Burleigh, Robert Smith, Heather Jenkins, Bert Skinner, Bev Rae, Liz Leslie, John Barrie.

### Contributors to this edition

Durward Tavendale

Bill Howatson



Liz Leslie

Wilma Jobson

George Hastie

Bob Smith

Van Leiper

Louis Densley

Mary Singleton

Karen Broomfield

Isobel Smith

Donald Gillies

Mike Burleigh

Alison Couch

Andrew Christie

Frances Johnson

Yvonne Buck

Allan Robertson

John Macdonald

Tom Dalziel

Harry Bickerstaff

Georgina MacDonald

Susie Brown

Jan Cyrus-Ford

Dorothy Tuck

Bernard Tuck

David Wood

### Editorial

Many of you are sensibly keeping your newsletters so that you might refer to them both during the months they cover and for future reference. Those who have internet access can now also use our website [www.stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk](http://www.stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk) to find this information.

The website and our new colour centre pages will, we hope, stimulate and encourage more of you to contribute from across the age ranges. The newsletter seeks to celebrate and promote the fellowship of community as does Gala Day.

It has been observed that Gourdon and Johnshaven have the natural focal points of harbours where villagers met in times past and where they continue to meet and relax.

The linear development of St Cyrus and modern lifestyles make the Public Hall, Church, School and Playing Field our ports of call to meet with friends.

We hope you find the newsletter another such meeting point.

Mike Burleigh

### DEADLINES

Articles and information for the next issue should arrive at the latest  
September 24<sup>th</sup>

Write to us at: Email: [stcyrusnewsletter@beeb.net](mailto:stcyrusnewsletter@beeb.net)

Dear Editor,

### Letters to the Editor



Hello;

I'm so excited to find your web site.

Family legend says that my ancestor, Enoch, came from Scotland.

We believe that he came from the St Cyrus area, taking the last name of Cyrus when he immigrated.

After reading about your lovely village I would like to think that the legend is true. We're not even sure when they came to America (he came with his brother Jesse) although we believe it was probably in the late 1700's or early 1800's. My husband and I are planning a trip to Scotland in the next year or two and I would love to visit St Cyrus and spend several days exploring the area. In the meantime if there is anyone in St Cyrus that would care to have an American e-pal I would be happy to communicate with anyone that is interested.

We will need advice on where to stay and what we should see while we're there.

Congratulations on having such a great newsletter and for creating your web site. Best Wishes from Lincoln, Nebraska USA. Jan Cyrus-Ford [jcyrus@neb.rr.com](mailto:jcyrus@neb.rr.com)



## St Cyrus Church Services are at 11:30am every Sunday.

Services at 10am in Johnshaven & 11:30am St Cyrus.

Mearns Coastal Parish held a very successful July mission for the parish with morning meetings in Johnshaven and an afternoon football camp in St Cyrus. This was enjoyed by the children who made links with other youngsters. The mission week concluded with a Sunday church service followed by a lunch.

The team was joined this year by volunteers from Inverbervie. All team members must be registered, interviewed and checked against police records. We appreciate the work of Mrs Duncan, Tony, Scott and our group leaders for all their hard work in preparing and delivering the teaching and learning programme theme for this year which was 'Caring for Our Planet and Recycling'.

NB. There is a Service of Communion at Johnshaven at 10am 2<sup>nd</sup> September for the whole parish and no service at St Cyrus on that day.

Sunday 19th August there will be a special service at Benholme church at 3pm. The guest preacher will be Prof Herbert Kerrigan QC who is a reader in the Church of Scotland. There will be refreshments afterwards and a collection for repairs to Benholme Church.

The gifts for stipend this year totalled £5,000. Thank you to all who supported us.

Funerals: Major Singleton, Died 1st July 2007  
John Ogston Kirk Lodge Home, L/kirk died 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Wedding; 28th July Fiona Simpson and Jim Gordon  
George Hastie

## Scottish Episcopal Church

### St Mary's + St Peter's Montrose

8am Sunday Said Eucharist

11am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 10:15 Said Eucharist

### Inverbervie: St David's

Sung Eucharist 9:30am Sunday

## The Free Church in St.Cyrus

### Meeting in the Public Hall

All our meetings are suitable for all ages and a Creche can be arranged on request.

Quotation from the Bible: Proverbs 3: 11, 12a

"My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those He loves. "

*...someone once said that pain is "God's megaphone". Is God trying to get your attention?*

Outlines of meetings for August/September.

**Worship & Learn** Preacher - Bob Akroyd

3pm Sunday 5th August St Cyrus Village Hall. "Isaiah". Refreshments.

### Mid month meeting

No meeting in Hall on 19th August. See press.

**Worship & Learn** Preacher - Jonathan Worthington 3pm Sunday 2nd September St Cyrus Village Hall. "Adam". Refreshments.

**Mid month meeting** See press.

### Weekday Personal Bible Studies.

By arrangement. One to one or small group. Informal. Contact - Cathy Gillies, Free Church Link

### Weekday Personal Bible Studies.

By arrangement. One to one or small group. Informal.

**Catholic Services:**  
Saturday 6.30pm St David's Episcopal Church: Bervie  
Sunday Mass at 9am and 11am St Mary's Stonehaven

## St Cyrus Announcements

Please inform the editor before the deadline if you wish to include an obituary, announcement of a birth, death, engagement, wedding, birthday or achievement in this newsletter

**St Cyrus Youth Club** Committee would like to thank all those involved in making our stall at St Cyrus Gala such a success. We made approx £650 which is a great boost to the Youth Club Funds. Thanks again from the St Cyrus Youth Club Committee.

New Session 07/08 We have managed to put a new committee together for the 07/08 session but really need more parent guardian help when it comes to volunteering for trips/fund raisers.

We restart on Friday 14th September 2007

Juniors: P5 - P7 - 6.30pm to 8.15pm

Seniors: S1 - S3 - 8.30pm - 10.00pm

Yearly Membership £6.00 for first child and £3.00 for any other sibling thereafter. Weekly subscription £1.50

We hope you are all having or have had a great summer and look forward to seeing you on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

For further information contact Wilma through the contact link on the Youth Club page.



## St Cyrus National Nature Reserve



Summer marches on and St Cyrus National Nature Reserve is full of life. The family of starlings nesting at the end of the visitor centre are on their second brood now and the family of pied wagtails nesting in one of the swallow boxes are growing fast.

Our long awaited audio visual display has arrived and is now set up in the 'pod' in the middle of the visitor centre. The 10minute film gives an introduction to the reserve to compliment the information already in the centre

We had lots more school groups visiting the reserve this summer to explore their local environment, including the 60,000<sup>th</sup> child to take advantage of the Scottish Natural Heritage school travel grant which helps towards the travel costs of environmental education trips throughout Aberdeenshire

Our Family Fun Day was rather soggy but about 50 people ventured out to listen to the visiting storyteller, have their face painted, make a bird box and enjoy a warming cup of tea and cakes!

Our events for August are both to celebrate National Moth Night:

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August – Operation Moth

A chance to help reserve staff and moth expert Brian Stewart check what has been attracted to the moth traps set for National Moth Night. Time – 1000 to 1100

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August – Magical Moths

Join moth expert Brian Stewart on an evening exploring the world of magical moths. Remember to bring a torch and wrap up warm! Time – 1800 to 1945

Please remember **booking is ESSENTIAL**. Phone on 01674 830736 to book or for more information

Alison Couch



WEATHERMAN. On Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2007 in and around St Cyrus we had a summer storm that caused damage and frightened many people. Why?

Why is it that summer storms are so much more violent than at any other time of the year? Why can a summer storm do more damage than other types of storms? Most people would not believe the simple answer to that question.

HEAT is the cause. You may say that we have not had much heat this summer. Except in May but that was spring. So where did all this heat come from or go to?

We get our heat from the sun. It may not feel warm to us but to the air around us it is very warm. The heat from the sun warms the earth and this in turn warms the air above the earth. The warm air starts to rise and as it does it cools. The warm air has a large quantity of water vapour in it and as the air cools it condenses to form clouds, the clouds absorb more heat and moisture which rises and cools creating more cloud. The moisture inside the cloud now starts to freeze forming ice crystals. It's at this point that lightning starts to form. The ice crystals are being lifted very quickly aloft causing static electricity to form. At the very top of the cloud there is hail forming. The ice crystals join the hail causing them to increase in size. Hail then begins to fall changing the direction of the air within the cloud and causing more static electricity to form. As the hail comes into warmer air it melts, becomes lighter and is again lifted and cooled forming larger hail and more electricity. By now there may be rain falling from the lower part of the cloud, this may be anything from light to very heavy. The winds within the cloud are very strong and these may throw the hail out of the cloud, most often through the top of the cumulonimbus cloud. Now there are very large areas of electricity in the cloud and when an imbalance occurs in the electricity we get lightning, as well as strong winds, heavy rain and hail.

This is a SUMMER STORM. One of the big problems of these storms is that one storm can create another SUMMER STORM. Questions for MAC?

## Introducing two organisations who will in future be contributing to your newsletter



### What is the Partnership?

The Scottish Executive and the Public Sector have for some years now aggregated the establishment of Rural Partnerships. This was suggested for the Kincardine and Mearns Area some time ago but it has only happened in the last two years.

The Partnership can be viewed as an umbrella organisation drawing together voluntary sector partners to advance the needs of the area.

The Partnership is managed by a committee of between 5 and 10 elected from the membership at the A.G.M. Membership is open to any constituted group or organisation in the Kincardine and Mearns area. Each member group shall appoint a representative who will be the main contact and vote on behalf of the group.

### The Objects of the Partnership

to work and liaise with other groups and organisations in the Kincardine and Mearns Area  
 to promote access to facilities and resources to meet identified needs in and by the communities of the area  
 to provide and manage, or join with others in providing and managing, such services as are appropriate to the objects and which are charitable  
 to consult with residents of the area to identify needs  
 to facilitate participation in Community Planning  
 to promote sustainable community development  
 to continually evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies and initiatives undertaken by the Partnership

### Who's in the Partnership?

Community Councils  
 Community Associations  
 Sports Groups  
 Environmental Groups  
 Village Hall Committees  
 Youth Groups  
 Partnerships  
 Community Groups  
 Arts Groups  
 Community Transport Schemes  
 Advice Centres

For further details please **contact the secretary:**  
**Mrs S Brown, Lutherbank House, Auchenblae AB30 1XP**  
 Telephone 07807 320048 - Email [susiebrown@btinternet.com](mailto:susiebrown@btinternet.com)

Next issue: PLANNING FOR REAL\* and  
 how this could benefit St Cyrus.



South Aberdeenshire - SATRA

**David Wood , Chairperson.**  
 Tel: 01569 766108

Meetings held the first Thursday of the month in 1 Highfield Court, Stonehaven.

We have agreed to provide SATRA with space in this and future issues.

The October-November newsletter will carry the results of the survey in which St Cyrus residents south of the A92 were asked to contribute their views on the development of the Railway Cutting between Mercury Terrace & Morphie Drive.

## Major John F. M. Singleton 1916-2007



Those who knew my father only as a slightly eccentric but courteous old gentleman might be interested to hear a bit about his earlier life.

John Singleton was born in 1916, the third of four sons of a Herefordshire headmaster. All keen sportsmen, they had a wonderful childhood playing cricket on the school pitches and generally getting up to mischief. An early memory was of his father carrying him downstairs to a horse drawn carriage that whisked him away to a sanitorium. Hospital was a lonely, scary place until his brother Mike joined him. They had diphtheria.

Young Johnnie's first trip to Scotland was by train. He remembered it grinding to a halt on the Yorkshire moors when a zeppelin passed overhead but they came to no harm and disembarked at St Cyrus station where Aunt Evelyn's liveried chauffeur met them. The family stayed at Ecclesgreig or Burnside on visits and there was lots of fun and parties. One shy little girl made a lasting impression on him. Jean Osborne lived with her aunt at Kirkside because her mother died when she was 5. He married her in 1941.

After school and Cambridge University, John Singleton was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1938 and served in the Middle East until 1943 when an accident in Egypt damaged a knee so badly that he was told he might never walk again. His life-long interest in PT, several operations and a strong faith brought his return to duty and he saw further action in Europe.

Post War, he spent a year with the Army Physical Training Corps, played hockey for the army and had a trial for Scotland. Then he was posted as Battery Commander to Mons Officer Cadet School where his cadets included James Goldsmith and also a future Field Marshall.

From 1952-54 he commanded Malayan troops in North Malaya where he developed a keen interest in identifying snakes but he was invalided home and in 1958 he retired to become a teacher and farmer, settling back with the family at Kirkside.

The Major soon became involved in local organisations. He was a County Commissioner for Scouts, Vice Chairman of North East TAVRA and was appointed a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Kincardineshire in 1978.

My father played cricket for the Army, Free Foresters and IZ and captained Brigadier Duncan's XI against Montrose for 13 years. He preferred a good game to winning and his greatest joy coaching sport at Lathallan was finding out what an ordinary boy could be good at to enable him to enjoy the game too. He said he had no use for games and sports unless they were played in a spirit of true sportsmanship.

He was an ecumenical Christian, at one stage being both a Sunday school teacher in St Cyrus Kirk and Rector's warden at Montrose Episcopal church. He attended both churches regularly and laid the wreath at St Cyrus on Armistice Day last year, aged 90.

He had a lively sense of humour and fine eye for detail. He was an accomplished poet and cartoonist, which stood him in good stead during dull meetings when he would draw excellent likenesses of the speakers and surreptitiously pass them to his neighbours. Many of the letters I have received mentioned this!

I know the Major would want me to say how much he appreciated the kindness of all the people who dropped in, stopped to chat, or in any other way helped him to enjoy the final years of a remarkable "innings". Thank you from both of us.



## WILDLIFE IN OUR AREA: BUTTERFLIES: OUR BEAUTIFUL SUMMER NEIGHBOURS

I've always thought it would take a particularly hard heart not to be impressed by butterflies. Children love 'flutterbies' and I have only ever heard negative comments about them from gardeners and some people who simply can't stand 'fluttery things' around their heads.



Common Blue

Their story can be incredible; from overwintering here, in dry caves and old buildings, to migrating for thousands of miles, including sometimes being blown off course, all the way across the Atlantic and there's even a small colony of the North American, Monarch butterflies, in Portugal, which have managed to connect with their 'host' plant (Milkweed) and are surviving there.



Painted Lady

Here, in Kincardineshire, we also get migrants and in spring, the Painted Lady is often blown all the way across the North Sea in easterly winds and we enjoy their beauty round about us.

One of our residents is the Large White; often mistakenly referred to as the Cabbage White.

Actually that name seems to come from the vegetables which they badly damage through their caterpillars, which munch their way through their 'greens' in a manner which would make any human parent extremely happy!



Small White

Some, like the Meadow Brown, look very, very dark, but when they land in the grass, are very difficult to find. The reason for this is quite simple; they tend to fold their wings together and even when you know for certain where they landed, they seem to disappear when you get to that spot. Just at the point where you give up and decide you must have made a mistake, they up and fly away, almost from under your feet.

Only slightly less hard than the Meadow Brown to approach, is the Ringlet.



Ringlet

Our first butterfly of the year is almost always the Peacock and more and more, they are being found this far north



Peacock

At one time, they were considered rare here, but with the inevitable global warming which everyone now seems to know about, the northward march (or is it flight) of the Peacock continues and they are now common here.



Dark Green Fritillary

Even when this article appears in our village newspaper, there will still be butterflies to be found and the absolute best place to find them is in the 'Butterfly Bush' that is the Buddleia.



Small Tortoiseshell

Butterflies absolutely love them and if you enjoy butterflies, you can do a lot worse than invest in one of these bushes. One word of caution: prune them back hard every year, or they will take over your garden. The butterflies will love you for that, but after a few years, you might not think it was such a good idea yourself, as the bush can soon get out of control.

Harry Bickerstaff



Congratulations to Stuart who spotted that Postman Pat had stopped at St Cyrus School. Here he is receiving his Argos Voucher Prize.



More Gala day pictures at [www.stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk](http://www.stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk)

## Order your St Cyrus Newsletter Calendar

now:



### St. Cyrus

Community Calendar



2008



All proceeds from the sale of this calendar will go to Mearns Coastal Parish Church and St Cyrus Public Hall

You will also find your newsletter at [www.stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk](http://www.stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk)

  Wednesday, 25 July 2007

[Home](#)

**Main Menu**

- [Home](#)
- [Newsletter](#)
- [Community](#)
- [Recreation and Interests](#)
- [St Cyrus History](#)
- [Schools](#)
- [What's on in St Cyrus](#)
- [St Cyrus Nature Reserve](#)
- [Local Businesses](#)
- [Public transport](#)
- [Useful contacts](#)
- [St Cyrus Gallery](#)
- [E-Cards](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Location Map](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [St Cyrus Calendar](#)

**Administrator**

**Syndicate**

- [RSS 0.91](#)
- [RSS 1.0](#)
- [RSS 2.0](#)
- [ATOM 0.3](#)
- [OPML SHARE IT!](#)

**Newsflash**

**Welcome to this new St Cyrus Newsletter Website. We hope that you'll enjoy it and find it useful. If you have any comments, please send us an e-mail. You'll find details under 'Contact us'.**

**We have new information for the Youth Club and the Senior Citizens Assn. Please look under 'Recreation and Interests'. Also, don't forget to visit the Gallery for photos of Gala Day.**

**The St Cyrus Newsletter Website**

 [Preparing for Gala day](#)

This website is the electronic form of our bi-monthly community newsletter delivered to 630+ houses in the area identified on the map.

There are many in the village who now have access to the internet and prefer reading newspapers online. We hope that they will respond and contribute by writing to the [Newsletter Editor](#) and in so doing make their newsletter a better mirror of our community by contributing articles for discussion and entertainment. Contributors should read our [editorial policy](#) for guidance.

For more information on the interest groups in the village and the events, please use the Events Calendar on the right and have a look at the [Recreation and Interests](#) Category.

As you can see from the picture on the right, St Cyrus is recognisable from miles away by its church and steeple, which is a well known landmark.

**Latest Events**

- Wed, Jul 25th, @10:00am - 11:30PM [Publ Hall Coffee](#)
- Wed, Jul 25th, @6:00pm - 09:00PM [Outd Bowl Wed](#)
- Wed, Jul 25th, @8:00pm - 09:00PM [KeepFit](#)
- Thu, Jul 26th, @7:30pm - 09:00PM [Yoga](#)
- Fri, Jul 27th, @2:00pm - 04:00PM [Tea Dance](#)
- Sat, Jul 28th, @1:30am - 05:00AM [Outd Bowl Sat](#)

**Events Calendar**

<< July 2007 >>						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

**eWeather**  
Aberdeen, United Kingdom

## St Cyrus Community Calendar 2008

The photos for the 2008 calendar arrived slowly but surely and the selection process was begun. The aim was to include as many photographers as possible so as to reflect different views of St Cyrus and I think this has been achieved.

A draft of the calendar was on display at the annual Gala and orders for almost a hundred calendars were received – a tremendous response.

It is hoped to produce two hundred calendars and with further orders being taken at The Old Bakery & Coffee Shop, we are fast approaching that number. If you have not seen the draft and would like to do so and place an order, you can do this at the Coffee shop now – subject to availability.

The price is £4.99. A coffee morning will be held in St Cyrus Public Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007 and calendars should be available for collection then.

If your picture was not included this time around you have the opportunity to try again as it is proposed to issue another calendar for 2009.

We would like to see as many local people (*including children*) submit entries for consideration. Any aspect of village life will be considered. Images can be submitted either as a photograph minimum size 7" x 5." to me, Tom Dalziel

*(Please include a stamped addressed envelope if you wish your photograph returned)*

or electronically as follows:

via the St Cyrus Newsletter website <http://www.stcyrusnewsletter.org.uk/>

or by email to [stcyrusnewsletter@beeb.net](mailto:stcyrusnewsletter@beeb.net)

Please try and keep the file size to a minimum of 2 megapixels i.e. 2048 x 1536 pixels to maintain quality.

In order to arrange for the production of the 2009 calendar the **closing date for entries will be 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2008.**

Finally, on behalf of the St Cyrus Newsletter Group, I would like to acknowledge the help and support given by The Old Bakery & Coffee Shop for the invaluable help with the publication and advertising of the calendar and to all those who contributed photographs.

Tom Dalziel

### Disability Travel Issues: Part Two: People who need someone to help them with their travelling needs.

People who are aged 5 years old and over, whose mobility is such that they need someone to help them when they travel, can apply for an Entitlement Card with companion.

These allow the eligible person and one companion to travel free of charge, together, for the same journey by bus. The companion can be a different person from journey to journey providing they get on and off the bus at the same places as the card holder.

There is no need for a companion cardholder to be accompanied on all journeys they make. They have the choice of whether to travel on their own or whether to have a companion with them.

You qualify for a companion card if you meet the following criteria.

You:

1. get the higher or middle rate of the care component of the disability living allowance;
2. get attendance allowance;
3. live in a residential home or hospital and are eligible for the higher or middle rate of the care component of the disability living allowance or attendance allowance;
4. have been certified and registered as blind.

This information and more can be found on <http://www.spt.co.uk/concessionarytravel/index.html>

To be continued in the next issue.

Allan Robertson

(Congratulations to Allan who now also writes for K&D *Voice*) Editor



## Home Fire Safety Visit

Every year Grampian Fire and Rescue Service deal with approximately 827 fires in the home, of which 122 result in injury or death.

Smoke alarms are the first line of defence against fire. They are designed to detect fire in its early stages and can give you those precious few moments to get out safely.

Grampian Fire and Rescue Service can provide a **free** home fire safety visit, and if required, provide and fit a **free** smoke alarm, including smoke alarms for the deaf or hard of hearing.

This safety check is carried out by firefighters from a local fire station, and will take approximately 20 minutes. They will look at all areas of fire risk within your home, fit smoke alarms where necessary and advise you on their maintenance. They will also give advice and information on how to stay safe from fire, including kitchen hazards, candles, heaters, electric blankets, safe disposal of smoking materials and the points to consider when making a home fire escape plan.

To arrange a **free** home fire safety visit please complete this form, or contact Grampian Fire and Rescue Service on 01224 696666.

Text "FIRE" to 61611

email: [info@grampianfrs.org.uk](mailto:info@grampianfrs.org.uk) or visit [www.grampianfrs.org.uk](http://www.grampianfrs.org.uk)

.....  
Yes, I would like to receive a **free** home fire safety visit.

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone No.....

Date.....

Send completed forms to:

Grampian Fire and Rescue Service  
Aberdeenshire Command  
1 Grange Road  
Peterhead

**0845 90 90 999**

**GIVE BLOOD**

[www.scotblood.co.uk](http://www.scotblood.co.uk)

Six new donors attended the July Inverbervie Blood Donor clinic

Congratulations if you were one of them

from Louise Densley

Donor Services Support Officer

East of Scotland Blood Transfusion Centre

Level 8, Ninewells Hospital

Dundee DD1 9SY

**The Town Hall, Montrose**

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> & Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007

2.30pm - 8.00pm (both days)

**Laurencekirk, St Laurence Hall**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 3.00-5.00 & 6.00-8.30pm.

**IF YOU CAN NEVER FIND  
THE TIME TO GIVE BLOOD  
HERE IT IS.**

**Aberdeen regular sessions**

Foresterhill Road

Tuesday & Wednesday

4.00-7.30pm

(walk-in or appointment)

Wednesday 8.40am - 3.30pm

(appointment only)

Tel 01224 685685

## All The Public Hall windows are now double glazed



Photograph by Frances Johnson

**Public Hall Bookings** are made with Yvonne Buck Hallkeeper

Fees are paid to Lina Forsyth-Grant Treasurer

Letting Charges:	Committee Room	Small Hall	Large Hall
Regular Users:	£4.50/hr	£4.50/hr	£6.00/hr
Occasional Users:	£6.50/hr	£6.50/hr	£8.00/hr

The Public Hall is available for hire to all local residents. Occasional Users are required to pay a deposit of £50 together with the fee for hire of hall prior to the event. The deposit is returnable if the hirer has complied with the terms and conditions of hire.

### **FUNDRAISING EVENTS TO BE HELD IN THE HALL: AUG/SEPT**

Public Hall coffee morning Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> 10:00-11.30am  
 Public Hall Ceilidh Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 7:30pm-11pm  
 Public Hall Rainbow Whist, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 7pm.

### ST.CYRUS PUBLIC HALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 7.00pm

EVERYONE WELCOME. PLEASE COME.

Georgina MacDonald—Secretary 850896

## **TIMETABLE OF REGULAR EVENTS**

<i>Playgroup</i>	<i>Monday</i>	9.30am-2.00pm
Italics =Term time only	<i>Tuesday</i>	9.30am-11.30am
	<i>Wednesday</i>	9.30am-11.30am
	<i>Thursday</i>	9.30am-11.30am
<i>Toddlers</i>	<i>Friday</i>	9.30am -11.30am
Friendship Club	Wednesday	9.00am -1.00pm
Country Dancers	Monday	7.30pm - 9.00pm
Tea Dancers	Friday	1.45pm - 4.15pm
<i>Youth Club</i>	<i>Friday</i>	6.00pm - 10pm
	<i>Juniors P5 P6 P7</i>	6.30pm-8.15pm.
	<i>Seniors S1 S2 S3</i>	8.30pm-10pm.
Keep Fit	Wednesday	8.00pm -9.00pm
Free Church	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	every month 3.00pm -5.00pm
WRI	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	every month 7.00pm - 10pm
Senior Citizens	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	every month 7.00pm - 9.00pm
Community Council	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	every month 7.00 - 9.00pm

## **St Cyrus W.R.I** meet at 7:30pm.

Visitors, former & new members welcome

Please contact Mrs Thomson Secretary

Kathleen Masson is President

The 2006 - 2007 W.R.I. session starts in September. Meetings are held in the village hall on the first Monday of the month - Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>. - 'Fascinators'; Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. 'Craftspirations'



The S.W.R.I. is holding its annual "Handcrafts and Housewives Conference" in Montrose Town Hall. This year on 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September. On Wednesday morning there will be a talk entitled "Healthy eating in the 21<sup>st</sup> century." Further talks are planned but details not yet available.

Evening events to be held in the Town Hall: - Tuesday 11th. "Fashion through the ages" and "Traditional Scottish music" on Wednesday.

An exhibition of competition entries will be on display in the Links and Park Hotels' on Tuesday 2 - 5.30 p.m. Wednesday 9a.m. - 5.30p.m. (Latest admission 4.30p.m.) See local paper for further details.

## **St. Cyrus Public Hall.**

The Public Hall Committee has set up a Fundraising Sub Committee to organise events to raise monies for necessary improvements to facilities at the hall. We still need to raise more money to pay for the new double glazed windows. All the large windows in the main hall will have been replaced by the end of July but there is a shortfall between funds raised and actual cost of the work. We have gone ahead with the project to complete the improvements during the summer. Our next project will be the purchase of new crockery and cutlery and a new boiler and extractor fan for the kitchen.

All hall users will benefit from these improvements and the support of the local community at fundraising events is much appreciated. We encourage newcomers to the village to join us at the events. These are pleasant social occasions and a chance to meet with other members of the community and learn about some of the group activities that take place in the hall.

There will be a Coffee morning on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August from 10 - 11.30am in the hall and donations will be welcomed for the sales table and the raffle.

Other events are planned for later in the year starting with Rainbow Whist on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September and Old Time and Ceilidh Dancing on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Check out the Events section in the Newsletter for later dates and more details will appear in the October newsletter.

Dorothy Tuck Secretary of Fund Raising Sub committee

## **LET'S HAVE A CEILIDH!**

Dance in aid of Public Hall Funds. Date: Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September Time 7:30pm to 11pm

Tickets £5 (including supper) available 1<sup>st</sup> September from:

Joan Davidson, Bob Flann, John Sparrow, Dorothy Tuck. Entry by ticket only.

**THE PROVOST:** SEVERAL years ago I clearly remember taking part in a debate in the council chamber of Aberdeenshire Council when the matter under discussion by elected members was should we continue to use the term convener, as civic head of the shire, or should we adopt the older name and popular Scottish title, provost.

In all honesty at the time I preferred the former term, but it all seemed a bit academic as I had little thought of occupying the position, whatever the title. The title provost reminded me too much of John Galt's novel *The Provost*, and all the odd things that went on in eighteenth century public life, and of a great number of individuals, with varying degrees of distinction and notoriety, who had held the title in rural Dumfriesshire when I was growing up.

However, at the first full meeting of Aberdeenshire Council, after the election, on May 17<sup>th</sup> I was elected as the civic head of Aberdeenshire, the sixth largest of Scotland's 32 unitary authorities. To say it was an honour is an understatement as equally it was no exaggeration to admit that it was a frightening prospect to move from being a senior councillor to provost of Aberdeenshire.

The prime function of the provost is to chair all meetings of the council, and to act as the principal representative of the council and the community of Aberdeenshire at appropriate civic occasions.

The provost is charged with strengthening the public's trust in conducting public business and as civic head the holder of the post is quite distinct from the Leader of the council who is the political head by dint of being the leader of the largest political grouping in the council.

The provost's role is also ambassadorial – to receive visitors and dignitaries to Aberdeenshire and extend a welcome to overseas delegations. Since being elected I have been out and about and in addition to judging the ladies' hat competition prior to the St Cyrus annual gala – one of the great challenges facing a provost – I have attended the opening of the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh; launched an environmental initiative in Stonehaven; addressed a youth achievement conference in Portlethen; opened the new offices of the Mearns Healthy Living Network in Laurencekirk; given the key address to the Mearns Academy prize giving; attended a graduation ceremony at Robert Gordons University, and formally welcomed Prince Edward to the North-east when he visited Portsoy last month. I have also paid formal visits to the Peterhead and Fraserburgh fish markets – 4.45 a.m. starts from St Cyrus – and hosted the Scottish Junior Football Association AGM in Stonehaven.

The schedule, as I discovered on my first day in the office, is hectic, but being provost offers a four year opportunity to meet new and interesting people and most importantly to represent the best of Aberdeenshire on the national and international stage. I look forward to the challenge enormously and aim to give it my best shot. In the eleven years since Aberdeenshire was formed I am the first provost from the south of the shire and I take great pleasure in taking up office with that background.

Needless to say, the provost still has council duties to perform and I look forward to serving the people of St Cyrus and the Mearns over the next four years as a local councillor, as I have done since 1999.

And in answer to a question : No I don't wear the official chain of office when I am shopping or walking the dog!

Bill Howatson

## Computer Corner

I was going to continue the article on windows vista this month but something caught my eye in the world of computer technology. I wonder how many of us think that computers are good for our health. It may surprise you to know that they can be very good for our health and our future health. I have decided to move away from the usual format for computer corner to tell you something about how this is possible.

British scientists have developed a model using sophisticated computers that enable Doctors to take a more detailed look at how blood flows in our bodies using three dimensional modelling techniques. The idea behind this development is to enhance Doctors ability to investigate problems such as heart attacks, strokes and other vascular related diseases.

Because heart attacks and strokes are of major concern in Scotland's local communities this can only be good news. The development of this technology was carried out at London's Imperial College. Up until now sound waves in the form of ultrasound scanning was the only way to examine blood flow in the body. This only gives a two dimensional display and therefore does not show the whole picture of what is happening especially in the arteries. Modern graphical chipsets and hardware accelera-

tion make this kind of 3d modelling possible. It is refreshing to see this technology used in this context.

The model combines information from MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scans and ultrasound to create a three dimensional computer model. The advantage in combining the two existing technologies in a computer model allows the operator to analyse information about the rate and pattern of blood flow with information about the geometry of the vessels themselves.

According to those involved with the project this gives Doctors the ability to predict which patients may develop arterial disease and take appropriate action in the form of treatment to prevent further damage or damage from happening in the first place and therefore further disease.

Perhaps I should also explain why I was so interested in this technology. Before I took up computers full time I was working in the front line of the health service. At that time I saw and looked after many people who had suffered from the effects of vascular disease, both in cardiac operating theatres and medical/surgical wards. I feel it is slightly ironic that I am writing about this technology having been associated with both fields albeit in very different ways. So I felt it appropriate to let readers know that computers are in the fight to keep us healthy and living longer.

Andrew Christie

**Angus Novelist: Violet Jacob: House of Dun:** It's a strange fact that we often know less about our own back yard, than earnest visitors intent on soaking up the history and culture of an area. And despite all the years I have spent as a journalist, looking for local features and news topics, the discovery, quite by chance of the Angus novelist, Violet Jacob, born and bred at the House of Dun near Montrose, took me by surprise.

Not only was I surprised that I had never caught sight of her work before, but the more I read of her prodigious output of stories and poems, I became enthralled by her descriptive powers and her compelling ability to bring alive the countryside of south Aberdeenshire and north Angus in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Although born into an aristocratic family, Violet Kennedy-Erskine captured the broad Scots of the ploughman and the miller and used her command of the tongue to create some memorable characters. She said once that she learned to speak Scots because she was "aye in and oot amo' the ploomen's feet".

It was a reference in an article to "a bridge of eight arches" spanning the River Lour "before it turns into the sea" and to "a harled white house which has stood for some two hundred years a little way in from the road, a tall house with dead looking windows and slates on which the lichen has fastened", which intrigued me. She called the house Whanland.

Living so close to the bridge, it came to me that she was referring to the road bridge over the River North Esk at Northwater-bridge, and Whanland is Kinnaber House, in her novel *The Interloper* published in 1904.

Part of the attraction of the work of Violet Jacob is the topography of the area which she describes in a range of books. It is all the more fascinating because it surrounds us all, and is part and parcel of our lives. I have been keen to plot out the references in her works and tie them to present day places, farms, estates and settlements.

And I was curious if any readers of this newsletter are knowledgeable about the works of Violet Jacob many which are sadly out of print although there is an excellent collection in the Montrose Public Library – and the places she alludes to.

In *The Interloper* there are references to Kaims, which can be identified as Montrose, but there are also a host of place names which include Blackport, Garviekkirk, Morphie (which I take to be Morphie Farm), and the House in the Close in Kaims.

If there are any fans of Violet Jacob out there I am sure the newsletter would be an ideal forum to swap ideas and thoughts about a distinguished author and the landscape from which she drew so much inspiration.

Bill Howatson



Bust of Violet by William Lamb.  
Courtesy of Lamb Studio Montrose

## St Cyrus: A Community of Writers:

Aberdeenshire Library service now have copies of 'Honi Soit qui mal y Asbestos' ('Blow you Jack I'm Fireproof') by Richard Van Leiper and reviewed below:

Catching the flavour of childhood memories seventy years after the event is no easy task but Van Leiper has made a laudable attempt to make memory hold the door in his memoir about early life in Aberdeen.

Written as an appendix to his account of army life, Van offers a compelling, perceptive and humorous narrative of his childhood in the 1930s and 40s and recalls the difficult conditions under which working class families lived in the Granite City.

Abysmal hygiene, bed bugs, shared facilities, and galvanised metal baths were the norm against a background of impending war, until the late 1940s ushered in a new era of corporation housing.

He paints a vivid picture of his primary and secondary schooling where he displayed early promise in reading, technical drawing and English and overall he enjoyed and benefited from his education. Van also produces a vivid account of a child's view of the German wartime bombing, telling of the occasion when in haste to escape an air raid, he feared that he had lost the power of his legs only to find that he had thrust both of them into the same leg hole of his shorts.

He also writes about the pride of poor people, respect for the local bobby, and seasons that were easy to understand with warm summers and cold and snowy winters.

This is a commendable read about growing up in a rapidly changing urban world.

Bill Howatson

## Gala Day 2007

On behalf of the St.Cyrus Gala Day committee 2007, we would like to thank everyone, locally & from further afield, who turned up on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June to support Gala Day.

The 2007 committee tried to build on the Gala rebirth in 2006, and the success of that event helped to attract additional contributors & convinced the 2006 attendees to return.

St Cyrus Gala day is an important event in the village, providing an opportunity for all the co get together to enjoy a range of activities and support local groups in their fund raising.



This year's event attracted numerous new stalls and hopefully again building on further success, we can attract many more for the Gala Day next year which will be on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2008.

Many thanks to all stall holders.

We would like to thank the various volunteers (too numerous to name, but you know who you are), who gave up their time to help set-up & dismantle marquees etc. this assistance was very much appreciated.

Thank-you to Bob Flann & Bert Skinner for extending/building the staging for the dancers, to Jimmy Mcfarlane for making the beat-the-goalie, and for collecting the litter at the end with his little helpers, also to Pip Hills for his continued support.

Also a big thank-you to Ian Baillie for all his hard work to make sure there was a classic/vintage car display, we hope you all had a safe journey home.

At the Public Hall on Sunday 12th August 2007 – A Car Boot Sale from 10am. For more information contact through the Gala page on the website.

**Everyone welcome at AGM 7pm on 4<sup>th</sup> September in the Public Hall**

Bob Smith Gala day Committee Chairman

## Business Directory

**Electrician:** Dave Smythe 07767 371 591 Approved NiC ELG Domestic Installer

**Electrician:** David West 01674677365 mobile: 07759347353

**Brechin Books:** (try us first) Whinfield, Edzell DD9 7TN Tel 01356 648378 [www.brechinbooks.org.uk](http://www.brechinbooks.org.uk)

**Computer problems?** Ring Andrew 01674850326 /07793107612 [www.andrewspcadvice.co.uk](http://www.andrewspcadvice.co.uk)

**Fencing: Metal and Wooden: J S Gates and Fencing** Jim Smith 01674 850529 mobile: 07887858249

**Plumber:** Aymer McFarlane:01674850000 / 07956489660

**Window Blinds:** Featherstone blinds: Dod Melvin 850 429 or 07900254542 [dodmelvin65@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dodmelvin65@tiscali.co.uk)

To advertise your business in this space please contact the editor Mike Burleigh at: [stcyrusnewsletter@beeb.net](mailto:stcyrusnewsletter@beeb.net) or write to 13 Scotston Place, St Cyrus DD10 0BZ Entries for the Business directory are charged at £5 per issue for the single line entry of name, service and telephone contact number.

**This column could pay all our production costs. Please consider including your business address.**

\*Please note there is a separate charge of £5 per year to include your company in the website directory.

St Cyrus Community Council meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Public Hall.

Please contact the chairman Bob Flann on [flanngb@btopenworld.com](mailto:flanngb@btopenworld.com)

**PLAYGROUP: Open Day / Coffee Morning**

Tuesday 28th August - 10.00 to 11.30am

An opportunity for children along with their parents/grandparents/ aunties/ uncles to come visit playgroup and join in with all the different activities we offer.

Prize Bingo Night - Saturday 6th October - Doors open 7.15pm

Eyes down 7.30pm

Tickets £1 - refreshments served

Raffle

(Tickets will be available from beginning September)

Playgroup would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came along to support our joint coffee morning with the Hall Committee on Wednesday 25th July it was very much appreciated. Karen Broomfield Chairwoman

**Postman Pat:** It is hard to believe that it is a year since I was last in the stocks at St Cyrus Gala so once again I was in for another soaking.

Yes, it was the same faces lining up for the fun. One lad even tried to steal the water bucket to throw the lot at me.

JJ's aim hasn't improved, even when he took a run up. Thanks to everyone who took part and well done to Craig who was best marksman of the day.

Durward